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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/864,171	ITO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Richard E. Chilcot, Jr.	3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 12/30/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 May 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art reference, Teper et al., fails to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, an accounting process system is a system operated by a type 1 carrier for collecting fees from a plurality of contractors, and retaining a unique piece of contractor identifier given to each of the plurality of contractors and state-of-contract information showing whether or not the contractor has a nonpayment of the fee; said transaction management system further comprises: a mapping-of-information storage part for storing a mapping of each of the plurality of user identifiers to at least one contractor identifier; an acquisition pad for acquiring through communications the user identifier and the password given to a user by said Internet service provider from the user ordering a purchase of a certain article to any one of one or more purchase order accept system for accepting the order of purchasing the article through the communications, and the contractor identifier of the contractor made to pay a fee related to the article; and a judgment part for judging based on the state-of-contract information retained corresponding to the contractor identifier acquired by said acquisition part whether or not the contractor identified by the contractor identifier has the nonpayment of fee by exchanging information with said accounting process system; said authentication pad authenticates a user's identity on the basis of the user identifier and the password acquired by said acquisition pad by exchanging information through communications with said authentication system if the user identifier and the contractor identifier acquired by said acquisition have their mapping given by the mapping information

Art Unit: 3627

stored in said mapping-of-information storage part; and said request part requests said type 1 carrier to collect a price of the article from the contractor identified by the contractor identifier by notifying, when the user identity is authenticated by said authentication part and when said judgment part judges that the contractor does not have any nonpayment of fee, said purchase order accept system accepting the purchase order from the user that the user's identity has been authenticated, and by notifying said accounting process system of the contractor identifier acquired by said acquisition pad and of a price of the article ordered for its purchase.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Internet commerce for small businesses, Chang-tseh Hsieh and Binshan Lin, Industrial Management and Data Systems, v98n3 pp 113-119, 1998, note the Abstract.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard E. Chilcot, Jr. whose telephone number is 703-305-4716. The examiner can normally be reached on 5/4/9 1st Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (703) 308-5183. The fax phone

Art Unit: 3627

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Richard E. Chilcot, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3627